

Date: January 10, 2001

Dear Colleague,

PROGRAM DIRECTOR VACANCY FOR ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTERS (ERC)  
PROGRAM (Bioengineering/Biomedical)

We are pleased to announce an opening for a senior-level engineering researcher/educator to serve as Program Director for the Engineering Research Centers (ERC) Program, within the Engineering Education and Centers (EEC) Division, Directorate for Engineering. The Program Director position is a Temporary Appointment for one to three years under the Visiting Scientist/Engineer, the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (VSE or IPA "rotator" positions), or as a Temporary Federal Appointee. The desired starting date for the position is May 1, 2001.

The ERCs focus on next-generation engineered systems to transform technology and educate students to innovate. They formulate a strategic plan and carry it out in an integrated, cross-disciplinary environment where faculty and students work on research spanning the continuum from discover to proof-of-concept. ERCs develop partnerships with industry and other practitioners to inform the research, give students the skills they need to contribute to U.S. industry, and speed technology transfer. They integrate research with education at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, producing curriculum innovations derived from the systems focus of the ERCs' strategic research goals and often involve pre-college students and their teachers. A detailed description of the activities of the ERCs may be found at <http://eng.nsf.gov/eec>. The Division also provides support for efforts to strengthen engineering curricula and increase the diversity of the engineering workforce.

The individual selected will oversee the Engineering Research Centers focused on bioengineering and coordinate the activities of these centers with the research programs funded by the ENG/Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Systems (BES), other divisions of the NSF and the National Institutes of Health. There are currently nine ERCs focused in whole or in part on bioengineering. The Program Director should have a doctoral degree in Bioengineering or Biomedical Engineering. This position encompasses the following activities:

- Specific oversight of the ERCs focused on bioengineering research and education; development of strategies to promote synergy among all of the ERC bioengineering centers and between the bioengineering ERCs and other bioengineering research projects and programs within and outside the NSF.;
- Representation of the ERC bioengineering activities to the NSF representatives on the NIH committees that coordinate bioengineering research;
- Development of joint oversight of ERCs with NIH bioengineering staff and the stimulation of NIH support for these centers; and
- Management of review panels for bioengineering proposals submitted to the ERC program and its subsidiary Engineering Research Groups Program.

The successful applicant will provide oversight for and guidance to the assigned ERCs and identify and lead teams of expert reviewers to determine the quality of their performance for renewal or termination. The guidance will encompass research management, industrial collaboration and education. The incumbent will also be involved in the peer review of proposals for new center and group awards.

Experience managing cross-disciplinary teams of researchers in an academic context (in academe or as an industrial or government manager of industry/university research programs); experience with university/industry collaboration; an understanding of the interface between R&D and product development; and the ability to work in and manage teams are all highly desirable. An interest in working with the scientific and engineering community to enhance the effectiveness

of research and educational programs to produce graduates who are more effective in practice is also important, as is both depth and breadth of technical expertise.

This Program Director position at the National Science Foundation provides a challenging experience and an excellent opportunity to encourage and support engineering research and education. The individual will work with other Program Directors in formulating research strategies, developing cooperation among government, academia, and industry, fostering outreach to underrepresented groups, and will provide leadership within NSF and the research community. The position requires a doctorate plus a minimum of six years of academic, government, or industry experience. We are very interested in attracting qualified women and underrepresented minority candidates to this position in EEC.

We would appreciate any nominations that you may have for suitable candidates. Should you or your colleagues be interested in this position, please contact the search committee coordinator, Mary F. Poats ([mpoats@nsf.gov](mailto:mpoats@nsf.gov)) and forward a curriculum vita to her by February 1, 2001. Applications will be reviewed immediately after this date, though the position will remain open until filled.

For questions or further information, please contact:

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Sincerely,

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